

**Turnagain Community Council
Meeting Minutes December 2, 2010**

Breck Tostevin, TCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

I. Announcements

Cathy Gleason made the following announcements:

- Informational handouts are available on installation of radio-controlled gates at Lake Hood Taxiway
- Anchorage School District budget dialogue workshops are tonight at Hanshew Middle School and Dec. 4 in Eagle River.
- AMATS is having a Regional Transit Authority Brown Bag meeting Dec. 9, 11:30-1:00 p.m. at 3600 Dr. Martin Luther King Ave. A study is underway to determine feasibility and benefits of a Unified Regional Transit Authority Plan.
- Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing on Dec. 13th on amendments to the AMATS Transportation Improvement Program.
- January 20 is the next Anchorage Airport Communications Committee Meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the airport.

Breck Tostevin made the following announcement:

- There will be a meeting Dec. 6, 6:00 p.m. at Romig Middle School regarding the Spenard Road Project.

II. Approval of minutes

A motion was made by Pat Kelly and seconded by Cathy Gleason to approve the October and the November meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Anchorage Airport Communications Committee Report (Chair Matt Claman)

TCC Rep. Cathy Gleason reported the Anchorage Airport Communications Committee (AACC) has not met since the last TCC meeting; the next meeting is January 20. Agenda will include topics for the strategic workshop to be held sometime in February and facilitated by UAF Cooperative Extension Service. The goal is to address some of the issues between the airport and community.

IV. TCC Aviation Committee

Chairman Pat Kelly reported that the TCC Aviation Committee met on November 18. Attending were Pat Kelly, Merle Akers, Cathy Gleason and Breck Tostevin. The group started to put together some goals and objectives. The Committee is seeking to have additional people participate and passed around a sign-up sheet. Merle has put together some information about the new Alaska State Commissioner of Transportation and believes this is an opportunity for everybody to meet him and get the community positions before him. The purpose of the committee is to learn more about how airport decisions are made and take advantage of opportunities to provide input. One idea is to invite FAA and other representatives to meetings. Eventually, the committee would like to expand to include Sand Lake and Spenard Community Councils. The Committee will try to do the homework on issues before airport reps. come to TCC meetings. For example, one of the issues is the Part 150 Noise Study, which is important for homeowners regarding sound proofing older houses, but it also relates to the West Anchorage District Plan, which may require disclosure when you sell your home if it falls into the 60 decibel or high contour levels. Breck indicated the airport might be coming to talk to the TCC in January or February of 2011 regarding the noise study. The Committee will send out an e-mail to let people know the date of the next meeting.

V. January Meeting Agenda Items

Phil Isely commented that he went to a course at the Municipality's Office of Emergency Management

and they are trying to organize emergency management teams of six volunteers, who would then organize up to 20 families. He suggested inviting a representative to provide information on neighborhood organization in case of an emergency.

Breck Tostevin stated the public review draft of the West Anchorage District Plan was supposed to be released by mid-Nov., but is running behind schedule. Maybe it will be out before our Jan. meeting. He emphasized to MOA Planner Thede Tobish that the public will need to be given adequate time to read and discuss the draft before the comment deadline and before it goes to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a public hearing.

VI. Legislative Report

Sen. Hollis French gave the report. The Legislature is not in session, but he has been busy going to all of the schools in our district to discuss budget needs. He is very impressed by the quality of the education in the school district. Before the Legislature gets done, there will be a “Smart” white board in every classroom. A TCC member commented that the Alaska State Constitution says the state is responsible for education funding in Alaska.

Sen. French stated the recently announced fall revenue forecast indicated that there would be a \$5 billion surplus in the state budget; however the correct number is \$1 billion. The capital budget will be far more modest than last year. Sen. French asked TCC to submit our project wish list. Breck will send the Capital Improvement Projects priority lists TCC approved earlier in the year.

There was a question from a community member about who is responsible for removing the Trans-Alaska Pipeline once it is no longer used. The response is that Alyeska is responsible for pipeline removal and restoring areas back to their original condition. There should be bonds posted for reclamation.

Another question concerned the write-in senatorial campaign and the fact that there was a candidate list allowed in voting areas in November, but in 2008, no list was allowed. There was quite a bit of discussion and a suggestion was made to change the law so that it protects the intent of the voters. As to the vote count, several comments were made that the Division of Elections used the recount guidelines rather than the initial guidelines, which requires consideration of the intent of the voter. Response was, “Let’s see how the lawsuits play out.” Sen. French won’t be surprised if there is some proposed legislation regarding write-in ballots this next session.

Another question concerned Mayor Dan Sullivan and what he included in the city’s capital project wish list for legislative funding — specifically, anything for Turnagain? Sen. French responded that it included the 35th & McRae Road project, a new roof for Turnagain Elementary, more planning money for West High/Romig Middle Schools, and the pathway on W. Northern Lights from Forest Park to Lois Drive.

VII. Assembly Report

Assembly member Ernie Hall gave the Assembly Report. First, he reported that the MOA now owns the Campbell Creek Estuary. The Greatland Trust was instrumental in making the contribution to the Municipality. They will also establish a \$750,000 endowment fund for maintenance and insurance for five years for property cleanup. \$1.6 million is also being provided for a boardwalk in the Ship Creek area as part of the land deal.

The last two Assembly meetings focused on the 2011 MOA budget and the testimony was mixed: tax us more to retain current services, or don’t tax us more. There have been 15 amendments that will be discussed at a work session tomorrow; a number of things have been added and will be covered by revenue from the recently passed tobacco tax, including all of the proposed Anchor Rides cuts. With the amended budget, there would be a 1.6% increase in property taxes. Yesterday, the Mayor took out the proposed increases to transit fees. The Federation of Community Councils operating grant was proposed at \$30,000 by the Mayor; the Assembly has it at \$80,000. (This year it was \$98,000). There are no

amendments anticipated that will have an impact on the mill rates. The Mayor's wish list for the Legislature must be approved by the Assembly.

Next Monday evening, Dec. 6th at Romig Middle School, there will be a meeting on Spenard Road. Assembly Members Hall and Drummond will be hosting the meeting and will have answers to all of the questions and concerns that were raised at previous meetings. There are two proposals: three lanes with 8-foot multi-use trails on both sides; or a four-lane with a 10-foot multi-use trail on one side and sidewalk on the other. There are also proposals for a new cross street between 27th and 26th Avenues, so traffic could leave Bear Tooth and go out on the light on Minnesota instead of Spenard, and acquisition of property to provide public parking. The Spenard Road project is not included in the CIP because the community has not come to an agreement on the design. Estimated costs are between \$18 and \$22 million.

VIII. Neighborhood USA Conference, May 2011

Cathy Gleason stated that previously when Anchorage hosted the Neighborhood USA (NUSA) Conference in 1992, most community councils had a banner and they were displayed in the Assembly Chambers. The FCC is encouraging the councils to create banners for the May 2011 conference. Cathy presented a photo of the Turnagain sign on W. Northern Lights as a possible design and noted that a 2x4 banner would cost \$80-85. The old TCC banner included the coastal trail. An idea was to have a banner design contest sponsored by TCC and Turnagain Neighbors. Breck Tostevin offered to donate a bottle of home brew to the winner. It was suggested to defer further consideration to the TCC NUSA Tour Committee to come up with design criteria and ask people to submit proposals by February.

The TCC NUSA Tour Committee Coordinators (Barb Jones and Cathy Gleason) submitted a proposal to FCC for a Turnagain Tour by the deadline. The Committee will meet on January 6 after the TCC meeting to discuss the tour in more detail; by that time, TCC will be notified if its application for a tour is chosen. Gloria Manni will be out of town, so please get info. to her ahead of time.

IX. Capital Improvement Projects

Breck Tostevin discussed TCC's CIP priority lists that were submitted to the Muni Office of Management and Budget last June. Rankings for park and state roads were approved in May; Muni road and drainage projects were amended and approved in June, (following Governor vetoes of two road projects). Breck felt TCC is listened to when TCC submits the lists and we should take the ranking process each year very seriously.

An upgrade to Turnagain Street is our number one road project. It is a local street, but TCC is requesting pedestrian amenities on one side, drainage and landscaping — requirements more in line with a collector street. TCC wants the design to be Context Sensitive (meaning it should be flexible to be sensitive to property owner impacts).

Bill Wortman made a suggestion for the 2012 Legislative grant request list: put together a package of lower-budget park projects (i.e., repair/replacement of signage, benches, picnic tables etc.) that need to be done in Turnagain.

Frank Keen reported that he talked to Parks and Rec. and they intend to improve the entrance to Lloyd Steele Park next summer. He also noted that his donation check submitted at the TCC meeting last fall to the Anchorage Parks Foundation to help cover Lyn Ary Park expenses hasn't cleared – Treasurer Barb Jones stated she will follow up on that issue.

The Mayor's legislative funding request list includes a children's park on the north side of Westchester Lagoon; although it's in South Addition, TCC has supported it. There are also Chester Creek flood projects on the list.

There was consensus that TCC submit our previously approved CIP project ranking lists to Sen. French

and Rep. Holmes without modification.

Gloria Manni moved for TCC to put together a parks project list as suggested for a 2012 legislative grant request; Pat Redmond seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Comments

Frank Keen thanked the Secretary/Treasurer for well written and easy to read minutes. It was noted that the minutes are a joint effort, with the Secretary receiving edits from Pres. Tostevin and TCC Board member Cathy Gleason.

Frank noted that last month, Merle Akers brought up military helicopter flights over the Turnagain neighborhood. Frank talked with the military and was told that in the first part of February 2011, the aircraft from Kulis are all going to depart Kulis and participate in training in various parts of Southcentral Alaska. Then they will land at Elmendorf where they will then be located. Merle Akers stated that he contacted the Air Guard and was told the flights have ceased, except for 2-3 lifeguard mission flights when they lost the jet over Talkeetna.

There was a question about the status of the Jewel Lake Armory at International and Spenard. It is not on airport property. The city may lease it to the fire department. Station 5 will move there temporary while they rebuild a new Station 5.

Merle Akers discussed TCC Aviation Committee again and asked people to serve. Merle said the committee is trying to get ahead of the airport before issues become problems. The committee should look at the water quality at Spenard Lake and Lake Hood; part of that is because run off from the airport goes there. (EPA is going to issue stronger deicer standards to improve water quality next year.) Merle said another thing that will be coming up at some point is an update to the TSAIA Master Plan. Gloria Manni volunteered to serve on the Aviation Committee. Merle was thanked for his efforts.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Jones, Secretary-Treasurer